

Winning the Cold War

I WONDER IF THAT FLOCK OF BIRDS IS READY FOR A BREATH OF WINTER?

Mr Freeze is always looking for an opportunity to put your bird and you on ice while you're on the flight line doing maintenance. Here are some tips to help you fight the freeze.

Tip One: When the hawk is whipping up, dress like a 5-minute maint-

P-P-PM IS IMPORTANT...

B-BUT I SH-SHOULDA DRESS-SSED FOR THE COLD WAR!



nance job will take an hour. Bundle up and wear gloves. If you don't—and you dress like you're going to get the mail—you'll rush the job, pull poor maintenance and risk exposure. Sure, winter clothing is bulky. So allow yourself more time to do the job.

Tip Two: Cover your bird. If it's covered, you've won half the cold war against Mr. Freeze. If you can't cover your aircraft, follow the ice and snow clearing tips on Page 43 of PS 576.

Keep aircraft covered



Tip Three: For a long maintenance job, bring the bird inside or rig a shelter around it. Make one that will work

for you. Some units use various kinds of canvas and tentage.

Warm the enclosed area and the aircraft with a ground heater. Preheating a cold-soaked bird brings frozen metal and seals back to shape. Preheating also warms cold lubricants and hydraulic fluids. Preheating aircraft reduces the strain on engines and transmissions and improves engine start-up.

Keep a fire extinguisher handy when you're using the ground heater and keep the heater away from fuel and oil drains, vents and supply tanks and tentage.

Tip Four: Resist the urge to use shortcuts. If Mr. Freeze gets to you, break your maintenance task into small portions or use the buddy system where one mechanic works while the other comes in from the cold.



I'VE BEEN PULLING PM FOR A WHILE NOW. BETTER GET INSIDE FOR A SPELL.

Tip Five: Always ground your bird. The colder the weather, the drier the air; the drier the air, the more static electricity is generated. To beef up your knowledge on grounding, check out Page 2-11 in FM 10-67-1.



GOOD PM BEAT ME THIS BATTLE, BUT THE COLD WAR'S NOT OVER!